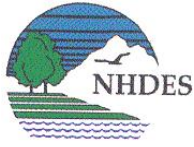


News from the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services



29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03302-0095
For information online, visit www.des.nh.gov
James P. Martin, Public Information Officer
(603) 271-3710; jmartin@des.state.nh.us

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 25, 2007

CONTACT: David Wunsch, 603 271-6842
Jim Martin, 603 271-3710

New Hampshire State Geologist to Testify on Geothermal Research

*Dr. David Wunsch, N.H. State Geologist to testify before
U.S. Senate Energy Committee on September 26*

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire State Geologist, David Wunsch will provide testimony before the U.S. Senate Energy Committee in support of renewed funding for Geothermal Research on Wednesday, September 26. The Committee will receive the testimony at a hearing regarding S. 1543, the National Geothermal Initiative Act of 2007.

The purpose of the National Geothermal Initiative Act of 2007 is “a national goal to achieve 20 percent of total electrical energy production in the United States from geothermal resources by 2030.” The measure instructs the Energy Department to carry out geothermal research and development to achieve this goal and would authorize \$75 million in 2008 and \$110 million annually from 2009 to 2012 plus necessary funds beyond 2012 for such work. The bill would also require the U.S. Geological Survey to conduct a survey of geothermal resources and would authorize \$15 million in 2008 and \$25 million annually from 2009 to 2012 plus necessary funds beyond 2012 for such work.

“States interested in conducting assessments of geothermal resources could benefit from technical support from federal agencies and possible cooperative finding if this federal legislation is passed,” noted Dr. Wunsch.

Funding for geothermal research and development was terminated in the fiscal year 2007 budget and no new funding has been requested by the Administration for fiscal year 2008

The hearing is scheduled for September 26, 2007 at 10:00 am in the Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room SD-366. Witnesses will include Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, the President of Iceland, Mark Myers, the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Susan Petty from Alta Energy, David Wunsch, the State Geologist of New Hampshire and other geoscientists.

###